

BATMAN
No. 47

JUNE...JULY
TEN CENTS



BATMAN

A 52 PAGE
MAGAZINE

Special!
The
PERIL-PACKED
INSIDE STORY OF
"The
ORIGIN of
BATMAN"
!



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WHO

WHAT'S THE NEWEST THING IN FASHION-
AND IN FELONY? TWO UNRELATED
IDEAS, BUT THE CATWOMAN WEAVES
THEM TOGETHER TO CREATE A NEW
DESIGN IN BANDITRY! AND WHEN
THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED MODEL OF
THE ROGUES' GALLERY SETS THE
STYLE FOR STEALING, THEN BATMAN
AND ROBIN, LIKE TWIN SCISSOR
BLADES, CUT THROUGH THE PATTERN
FOR PILFERY TO DESTROY FOREVER THE

*Fashions in
Crime!*



BATMAN, No. 47, June-July, 1948. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. Reentered as second class matter Aug. 1, 1941 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c (including postage). Foreign, \$1.50 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205

E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1948 by National Comics Publications, Inc. Except those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

Printed in U.S.A.

UNDER NIGHT'S PROTECTING DARKNESS,
A FELINE CREATURE CREEPS STEALTHILY
INTO THE WOMEN'S PRISON!

WITH THAT UNER-
RING INSTINCT ALL
ANIMALS POSSESS,
IT SEEKS OUT ITS
MISTRESS — THE
NOTORIOUS
CATWOMAN!

HECATE! I KNEW
YOU WOULD FIND
ME! NOW... I'LL
REMOVE THE SKEL-
ETON KEY AND GAS
CAPSULES I AL-
WAYS KEEP IN
YOUR UTILITY
COLLAR...

TO SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS
YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, THE
NEWS IS A CALL-TO-ARMS!

AND
SOON
AFTER...

WHAT...
UHHH...

HA! HA!

I REPEAT...
THE CATWOMAN
HAS ESCAPED
JAIL!

WE'D
BETTER
GET OUR
BATMAN
AND ROBIN
COSTUMES
READY!

RIGHT!
WE NEVER
KNOW HOW SOON
WE'LL BE NEED-
ING THEM WITH
HER ON THE
LOOSE!

ARR-RRR!

DAYS PASS, AND
ONE AFTERNOON,
AS THE
CATWOMAN
VENTURES FROM
HIDING...

HMMH!
SHE'S WEARING A
SHORT SKIRT! SHE
DOESN'T HAVE THE
NEW LOOK!

SOMEONE
SHOULD
TELL HER TO
READ A
FASHION
MAGAZINE!

HM-MM! SINCE I'VE BEEN IN
PRISON, THE STYLE HAS CHANGED!
FASHION MAGAZINE! THAT
GIVES ME AN IDEA...





IN A SHORT TIME DAMSEL BECOMES THE TALK OF THE FASHION WORLD...

ONE MONTH LATER, A NEW WOMEN'S FASHION MAGAZINE MAKES ITS BOW...



DID YOU READ DAMSEL'S NEW DEPARTMENT? IT'S CALLED "THE STYLE OF THE MONTH!"

YES, I KNOW! LAST MONTH'S CHOICE WAS A GOWN BY MILLIE KARNALEE! IT'S JUST TOO, TOO!



ONE MONTH LATER, FURRIER A. J. NIXON HAS A CALLER.

MR. NIXON, I'M MADAME MODERNE, PUBLISHER OF DAMSEL! I'VE CHOSEN YOUR MINK COAT AS "THE STYLE OF THE MONTH!"

WELL, I'M HIGHLY FLATTERED!



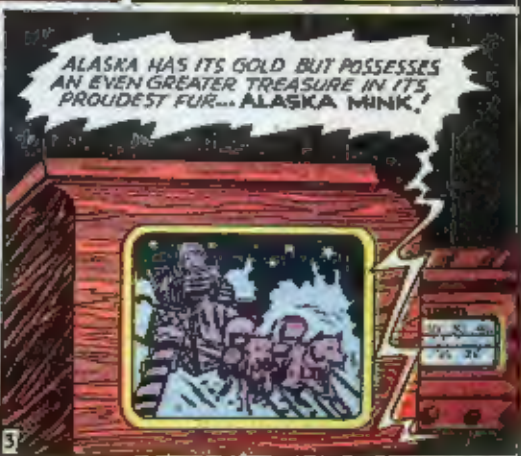
THAT NIGHT... AS BRUCE VISITS A FRIEND, A RADIO EXECUTIVE...

STICK AROUND! WE'RE GETTING THE SET READY FOR DAMSEL MAGAZINE'S TELEVISED FASHION SHOW!

OKAY! WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW LOOK!



SOON AFTER... HOME TELEVISION SCREENS SHOW THE VIDEO COMMERCIAL...



ALASKA HAS ITS GOLD BUT POSSESSES AN EVEN GREATER TREASURE IN ITS PROUDEST FUR... ALASKA MINK!

AS THE FASHION MODEL PIVOTS FOR THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE, SUDDENLY...

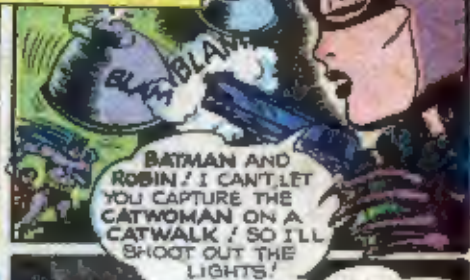


IN THE STUDIO...



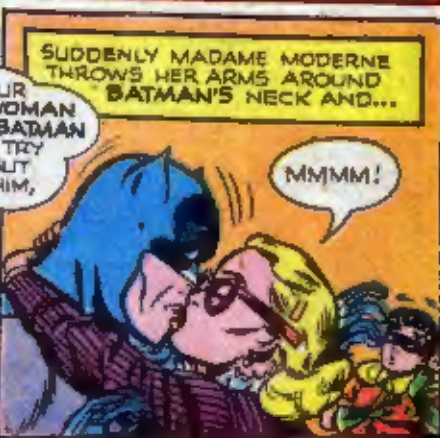
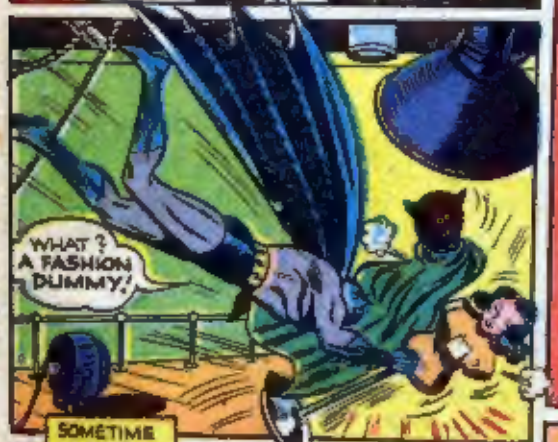
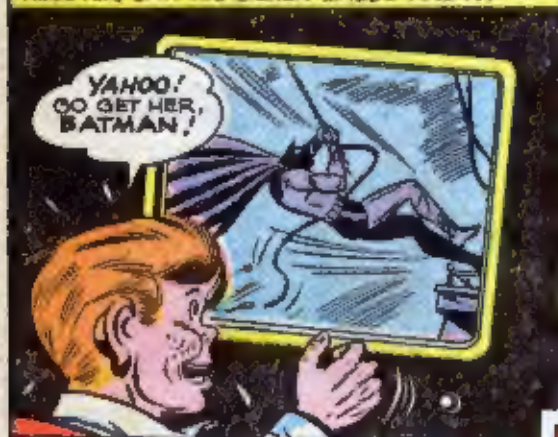
HA! HA! I'M NOT A CATFISH, BUT I CAN FISH FOR MINK!

UNNOTICED IN THE EXCITEMENT, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON SHED THEIR EVERYDAY GARB TO BECOME ONCE AGAIN - BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!





BUT THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE SEES THE BATMAN RECOVER, SPIN HIS SILKEN LASSO AND...





THAT NIGHT... AS MRS. VAN TYLER OPENS HER SAFE AGAIN TO PUT AWAY HER RINGS FOR THE NIGHT...

OH-HH... I SUDDENLY FEEL FAINT... UHH-HH...

SOON AFTER... A POLICE CALL GOES OUT TO THE FAMED BATMOBILE...

CALLING BATMAN! GO TO THE HOME OF MRS. VAN TYLER! CALLING BATMAN!...

MOMENTS LATER...

AND WHILE I WAS IN A FAINT, THE SAFE WAS OPENED AND THE CATWOMAN STOLE MY NECKLACE! THAT WICKED WOMAN! SHE LEFT THIS DRAWING OF HERSELF!

The necklace looks so much better on me. Don't you agree?

LATER... BATMAN REVEALS HIS FIRST CLUE TO ROBIN!

SEE MY SKETCH! THAT'S THE USUAL WAY AN ARTIST DRAWS THE NORMAL HUMAN FIGURE—SEVEN HEADS HIGH! BUT IT'S OBVIOUS THE CATWOMAN'S SKETCH IS NINE HEADS HIGH!

ONLY A FASHION ARTIST DRAWS THE HUMAN FIGURE THAT LONG, TO FLATTER THE FEMALE FIGURE IN ADVERTISEMENTS!

I GET IT! MRS. VAN TYLER MENTIONED MADAME MODERNE'S VISIT! THAT COULD MEAN THE CATWOMAN IS MADAME MODERNE!



NEXT DAY... SOME OF GOTHAM CITY'S MOST FASHIONABLE WOMEN RECEIVE ENGRAVED INVITATIONS...

*Daniel Magazine
invites you to an exclusive
preview showing of
Daniel's
Fashion Exposition*

AND IN HER LAIR, THE CRIME QUEEN EXPLAINS TO HER HIRELINGS...

SO, YOU SEE, MY MAGAZINE HAS ANOTHER USE - TO GET THE WEALTHIEST WOMEN IN GOTHAM ALL TOGETHER IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME!

...AND ALL READY FOR PICKIN' AT THE SAME TIME! HAW!

NIGHTFALL... AND BEJEWELED SOCIETY WOMEN FLOCK TO THE FASHION EXPOSITION...

GIANT NEEDLES... THIMBLES... SCISSORS... AND A HUGE SEWING MACHINE!

HOW SYMBOLIC OF THE SPIRIT OF FASHION THEY ARE, MY DEAR!

SUDDENLY... A PURRING VOICE...

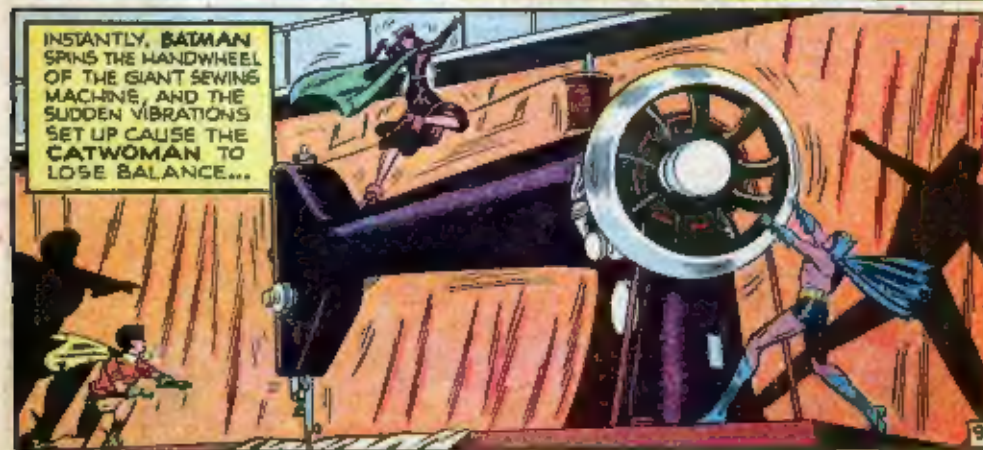
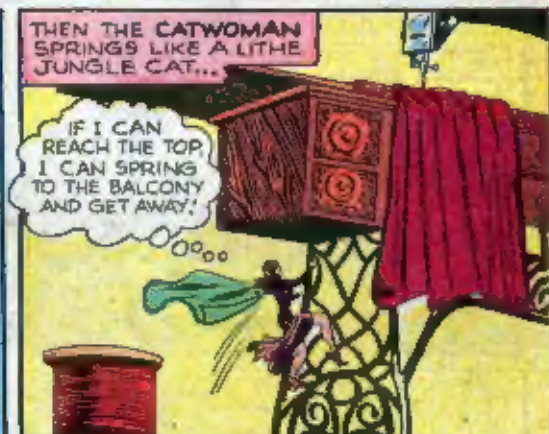
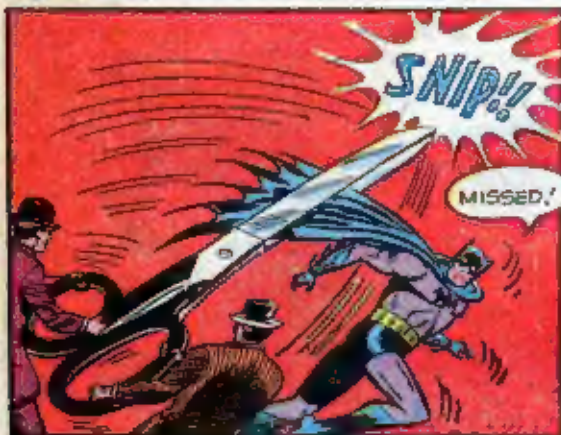
GOOD EVENINGS! AND NOW, LINE UP, PLEASE... AND HAND OVER YOUR VALUABLES!

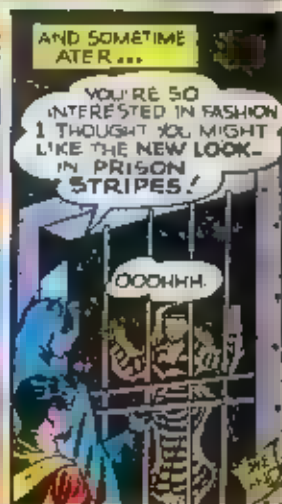
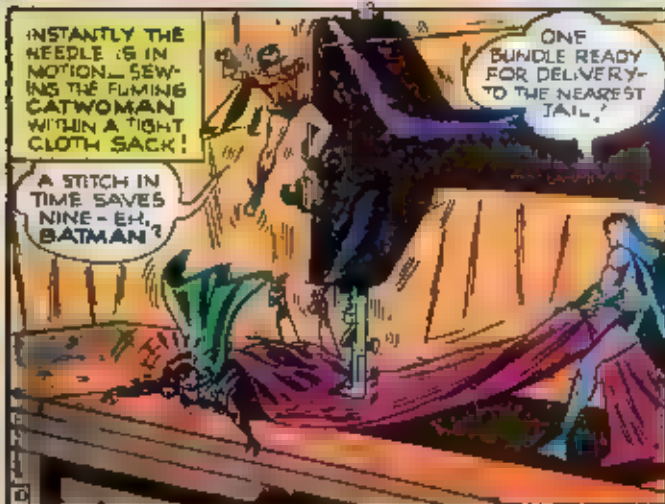
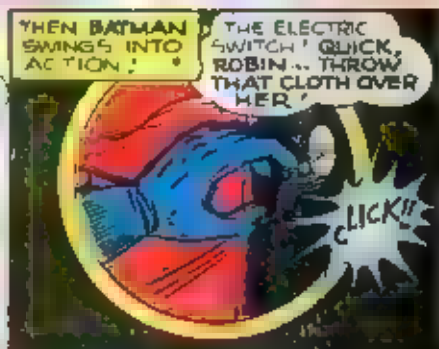
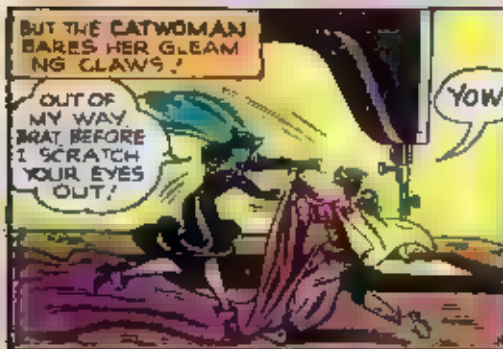
YEAH... THIS IS A STICK-UP!

IF THERE'S ANY STICKING TO BE DONE, I'LL DO THE NEEDLING.

NOW, AMID THE GIANT REPLICAS OF SEWING EQUIPMENT, A STRANGE BATTLE IS TO TAKE PLACE!

OKAY, JOE... LET'S GIVE NODY A HAIRCUT!





TOPS IN COMICS! BATMAN AND ROBIN ALSO FIGHT THE UNDERWORLD
IN DETECTIVE COMICS AND WORLD'S FINEST COMICS—



BATMAN

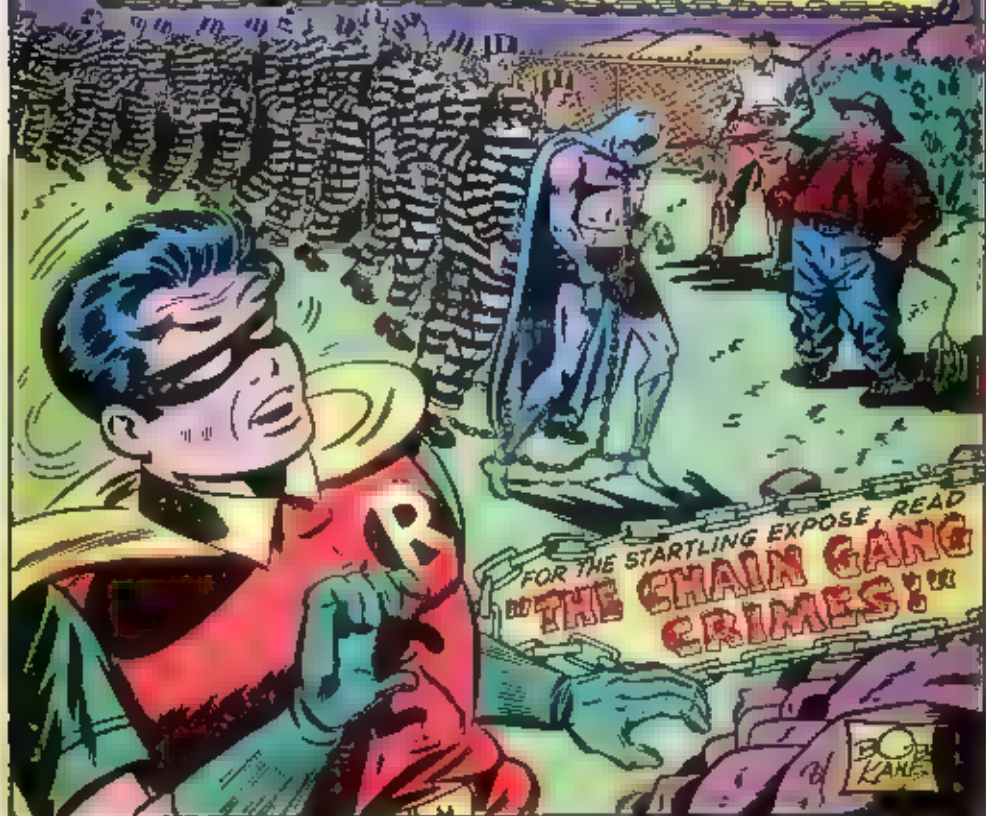


BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

THE BOY WONDER

BATMAN ON THE CHAIN GANG! THAT'S THE TERRIBLE ORDEAL HE VOLUNTARILY FACES... FOR ONLY BY MAKING HIMSELF A SHACKLED PRISONER COULD THE LAWMAN LEARN THE SECRET BEHIND A SERIES OF DARING ROBBERIES! HOW DOES BATMAN SURVIVE THE BRUTAL TERRORS OF A CRUEL, OUTMODDED PENAL SYSTEM... FROM WHICH DEATH IS THE ONLY ESCAPE?



BOB KANE

FAR FROM GOTHAM CITY BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE BUSY ON A NEW CASE, AIDING A LOCAL SHERIFF IN ANOTHER STATE...

ROBIN, IF THE "WHISKERS MOB" STRIKES AGAIN TONIGHT, THEY WON'T EXPECT US AROUND!

I HOPE WE CAN STOP THEM! SHERIFF TOBEY SAYS THOSE BANDITS DISAPPEAR LIKE GHOSTS AFTER EACH JOB

SUDDENLY...

HE-ELP... THE WHISKERS MOB... SLUGGED ME... MY HEAD... OW!

THE SHIP COMPANY'S NIGHT WATCHMAN! MAYBE THE GANG'S STILL THERE. COME ON

INSIDE THE HUGE PROPELLER MANUFACTURING WING OF THE SHIP COMPANY...

THIS LEADS TO THE SAFE WHERE THEY KEEP THE DOUGH!

THAT LEADS TO JAIL!

BATMAN AND ROBIN!

A HANGING PROP BECOMES A SHIELD AS BATMAN ACTS BOLDLY!

VERY CLEVER! INSTEAD OF MASKS, YOU THUGS WEAR PHONEY WHISKERS!

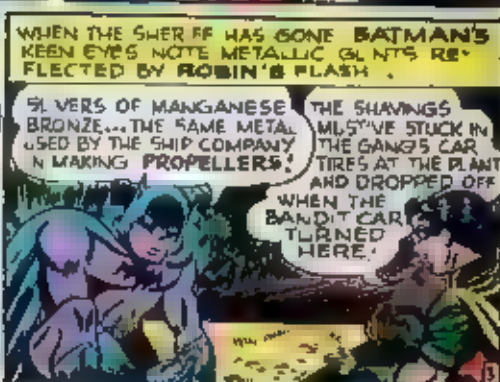
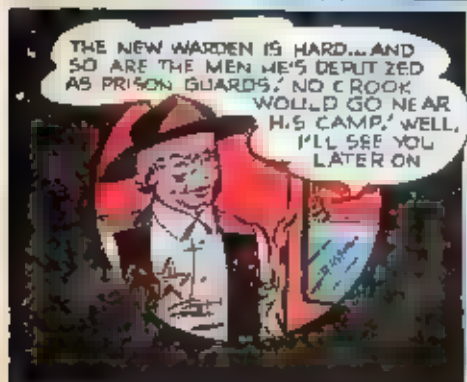
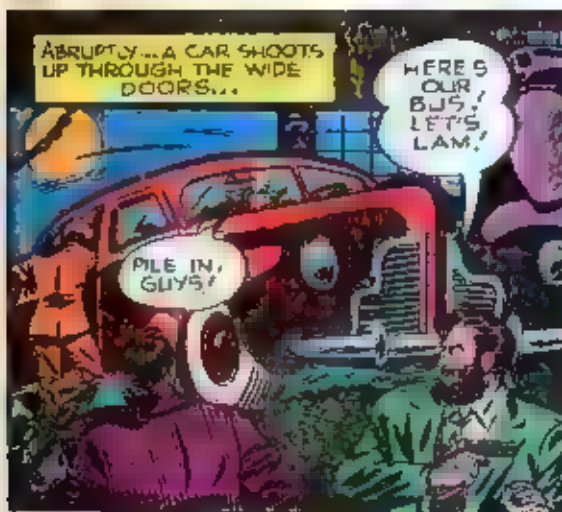
OW!

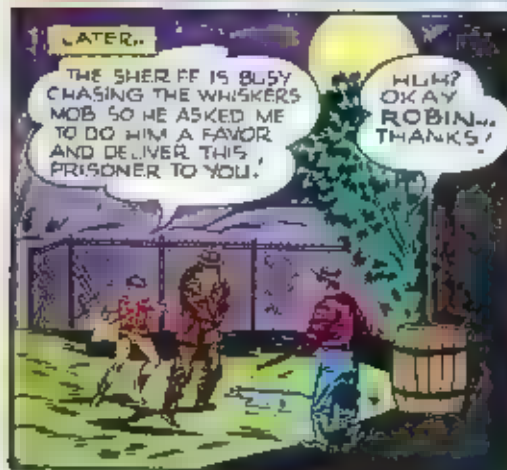
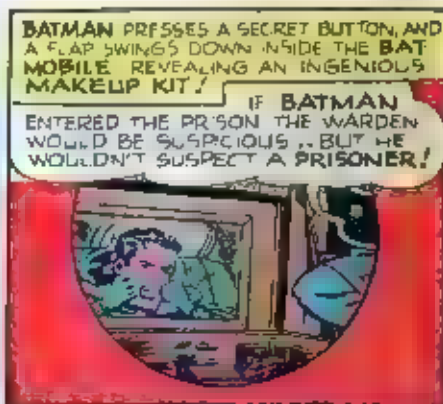
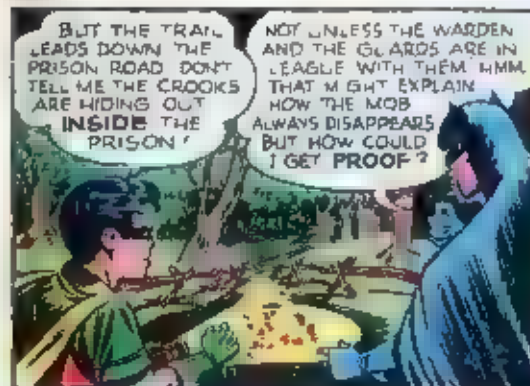
OOF!

IT WILL SPIN THE OTHER PROP AROUND... LIKE THIS!

AND AS FOR ROBIN THE BOY WONDER...

THIS PROPELLER TOUCHES THE ONE THEY'RE STANDING BEHIND. SO IF I CAN HIT IT...







INSIDE THE PRISON BARRACKS, EMACIATED MEN STARE WITH DEAD EYES AT THE NEW CONVICT ..



NEXT DAWN-
PRISON
BREAKFAST!

UGH! I CAN'T
EAT THIS
MESS! WHAT
IS IT?

MUSH AND
PORK FAT! YOU
EAT IT THREE
TIMES A DAY.
OR YOU STARVE!
TAKE YOUR
CHOICE



LATER... PRISONERS ARE HERDED INTO TRUCKS... CHAINED IN LIKE ANIMALS.



PRESENTLY HEAVY ROAD CONSTRUCTION LABOR BEGINS UNDER THE FIERY SUN WHILE BRUTAL GUARDS SHOUT WHIPLASH COMMANDS ..

YOU! LIFT THAT
HAMMER, POUND
THOSE ROCKS!

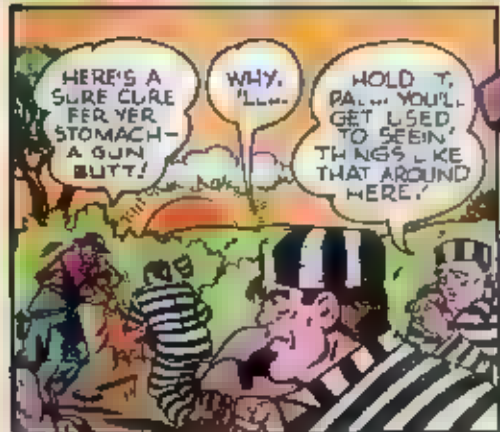
I.. I CAN'T...
I'M SICK...MY
STOMACH.



HERE'S A
SURE CURE
FOR YOUR
STOMACH-
A GUN
BUTT!

WHY?

HOLD T,
PAL... YOU'LL
GET USED
TO SEEN'
THINGS LIKE
THAT AROUND
HERE.

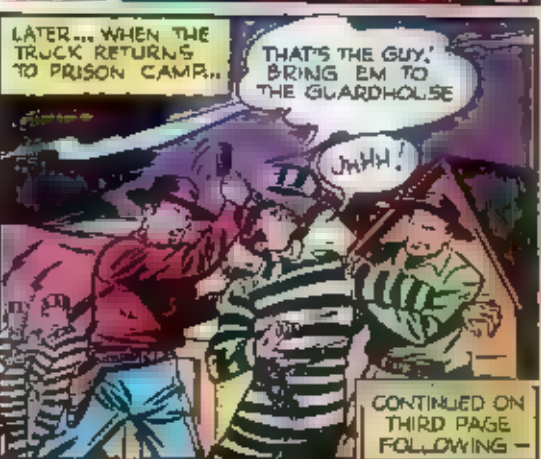
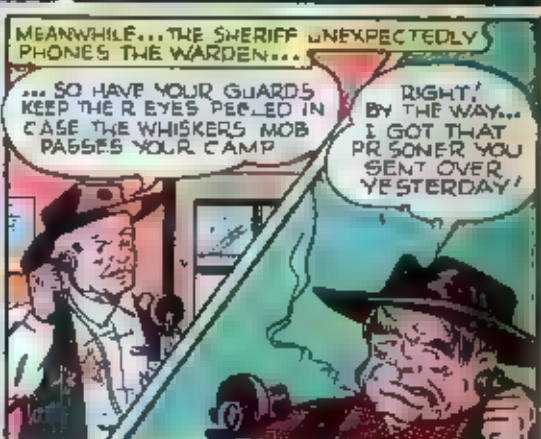
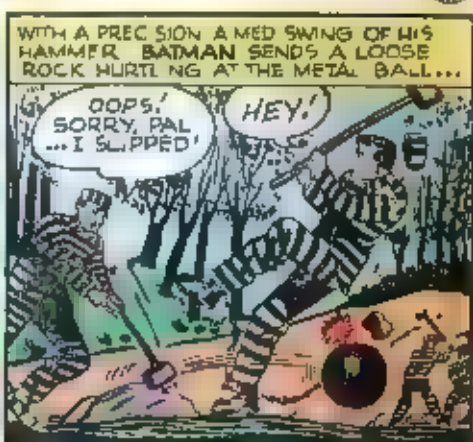


LATER...

HOW COME
THAT BUNCH
WEARS BALL
AND CHAIN?

WARDEN'S ORDERS.
THEY'RE KILLERS. THEY
EVEN HAVE TO SLEEP
IN A SPEC AL SWACK NEAR
THE GUARD HOUSE





WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS...

TALK, YOU AINT NO CONVICT! YOU CAME HERE TO SNOOP, WHO ARE YOU, MISTER?

THEY DONT KNOW I'M BATMAN! THAT'S A BREAK, MAYBE I CAN BLUFF MY WAY OUT OF THIS JAM.

THE DISGUISED BATMAN RIPS AT A WIDE STRIP OF FLESH-COLORED, SKIN-TIGHT TAPE COVERING HIS CHEST...

I'VE GOT MY CREDENTIALS UNDER THIS LITTLE HIDING PLACE I'VE BEEN CARRYING AROUND WITH ME

THEN HE UNFOLDS THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC MIRACLE: A COSTUME MADE OF NEW PLASTIC MATERIAL SO FINE IT CAN BE FOLDED INTO A THIN PACKET.

BATMAN!

THE SHERIFF SENT ME HERE 'IF I'M MISSING, HE'LL KNOW YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE'

ARE YOU KIDDIN'? I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE SHERIFF DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE. THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'RE DOIN' ON YOUR OWN HOOK, HAW! HAW!

SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE CONVICTS INTERRUPTS...

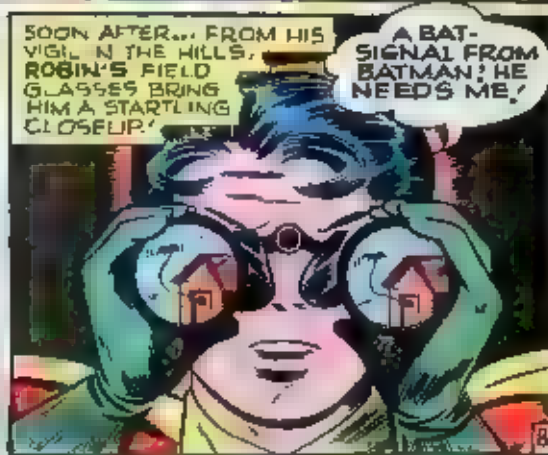
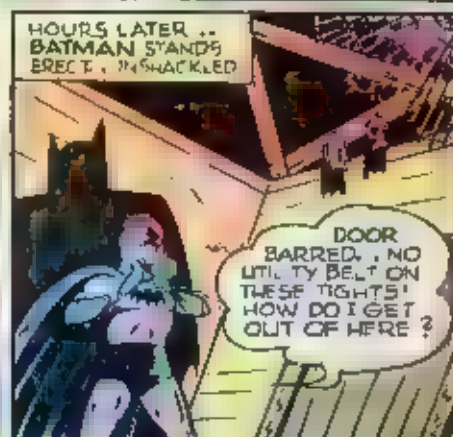
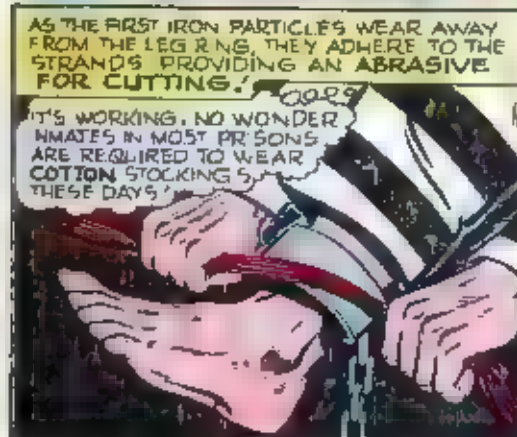
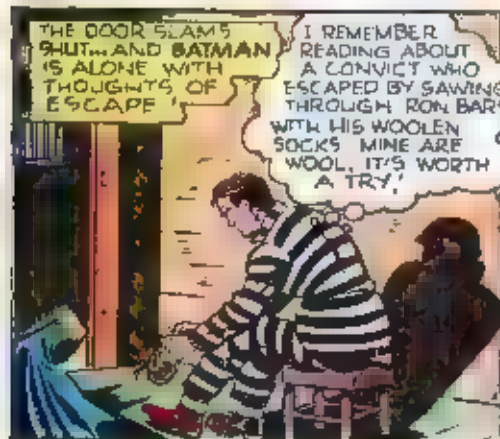
BOSS, IT'S GETTIN' LATE, WE GOTTA GET STARTED ON THAT OIL FIELD PAYROLL JOB.

OKAY, GET GOIN'. WHEN YOU GUYS RETURN, WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH BATMAN. MEANTIME, HE CAN'T GO FAR WITH THEM LEG IRONS ON.

AND NOW THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE BALL-AND-CHAIN IS REVEALED!

YEAH... TOO BAD BATMAN'S LEG IRONS DON'T SLIP OFF AS EASY.

'COURSE OURS ARE MADE A LITTLE BIGGER. OUR FEET, HAW! HAW!





LATER... A LONG BRANCH IS BROUGHT INTO PLAY!

MIND IF I VISIT AWHILE?



BEFORE THE ASTONISHED GUARD CAN ACT, ROBIN COMPLETES HIS MESSAGE.

COME ON, BATMAN... LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT RUNNING!



IF WE'RE GOING TO WIN THIS RACE, WE'VE GOT TO SLOW UP THE OPPOSITION! NOW... LET'S GO!



AS THE DYNAMIC DUO IS SWALLOWED UP BY THE SURROUNDING BRUSH, BELT MAKES QUICK PLANS FOR PURSUIT!

GET THOSE BLOODHOUNDS AFTER 'EM. IF THEY ESCAPE, OUR SETUP HERE IS FINISHED! SHOOT TO KILL!



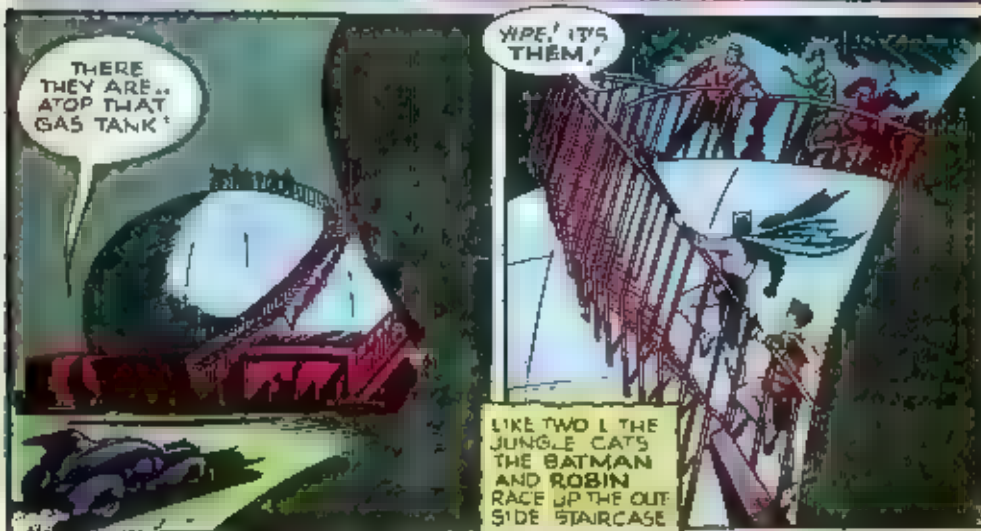
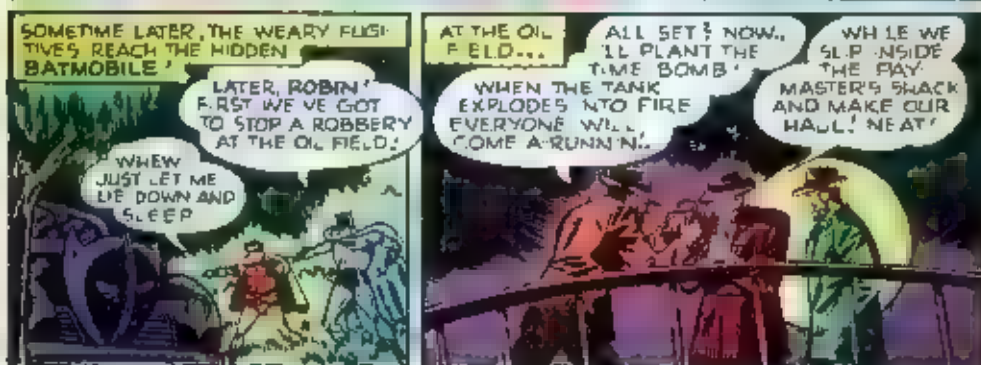
WE'VE GOT THE SCENT NOW! THEY WON'T GET FAR!

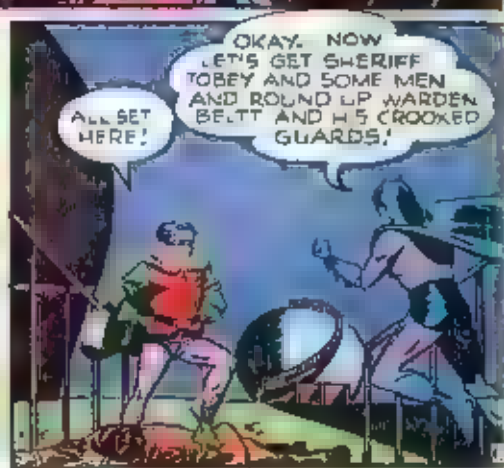


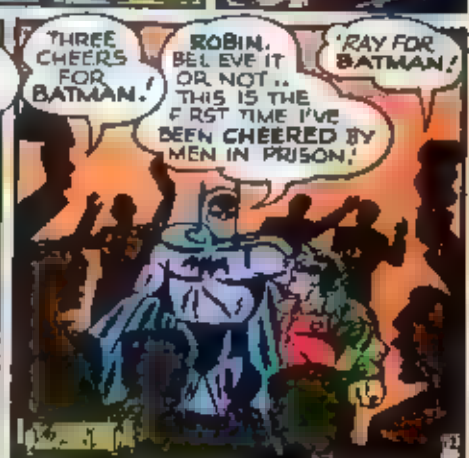
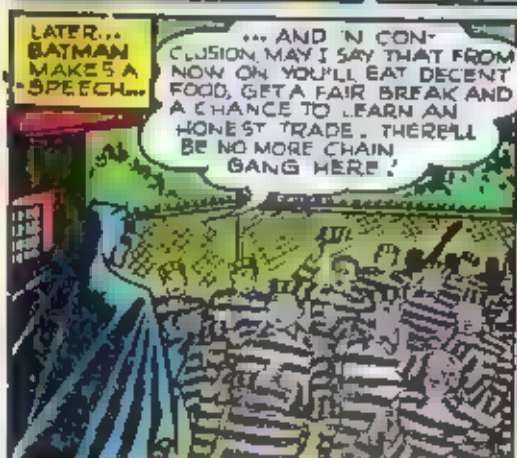
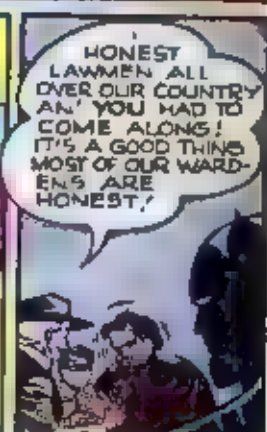
AS THE DEEP, SPINE-CHILLING BAYING OF THE HOUNDS SOUNDS CLOSER, THE FUGITIVES DECIDE ON A DESPERATE MOVE!

QUICKLY! THESE HOLLOW REEDS ARE OUR ONLY HOPE!









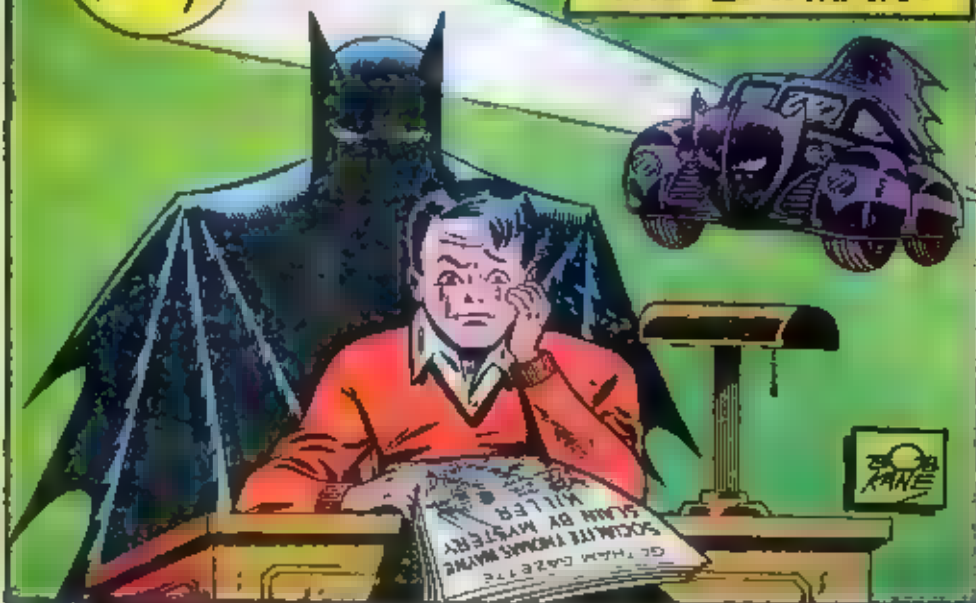
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

THE BOY WONDER

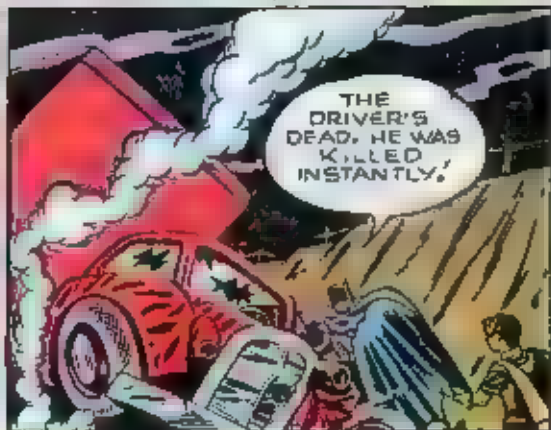
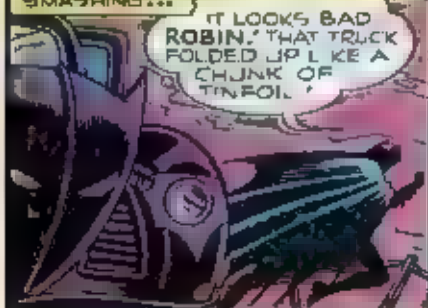
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY BRUCE WAYNE, A SOCIETY BLUE-BLOOD, CHOSE THE DANGEROUS CAREER OF BATMAN? WHAT MADE HIM BECOME A RELENTLESS, HARD-HITTING CRIME-FIGHTER? HOW DID HE TRAIN HIMSELF IN ATHLETIC AND SCIENTIFIC SKILL UNTIL HE BECAME THE NEMESIS OF THE JOKER, THE PENGUIN, CAT-WOMAN AND OTHER NEFARIOUS CRIMINALS OF OUR TIME? WHAT INSPIRED THE BATMOBILE AND THE BATPLANE? HERE'S THE ANSWER... THE INSIDE STORY OF A BOY WHO MADE A GRIM VOW... THE INSIDE STORY OF...

"The Origin Of THE BATMAN!"





WITNESSES TO THE DISASTER ARE
BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY
WONDER, HOMEWARD BOUND IN
THE STREAMLINED **BATMOBILE**.
AFTER AN EVENING OF CRIME-
SMASHING...



AS ROBIN ADVANCES
TOWARD THE STUMBLING
MAN TO HELP HIM...



BUT, ROBIN DAZED UNWITTINGLY TRIPS BATMAN, AND DEATH HOVERS OMINOUSLY OVER THE CAPED MANHUNTER...

"I'M MEASURIN' YOU FOR A COFFIN, BATMAN - RIGHT NOW!"

ABRUPTLY, A BULLET FROM NOWHERE CLIPS THE MURDEROUS THUG...

BLAM!

UH...

"WE HEARD THE CRASH, I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL THAT TRIGGERMAN, BUT IT WAS HIM OR YOU!"

THE RADIO PATROL!

"SAY THIS IS 'FEETS' BORGAM; HE'S WANTED FOR A MURDER IN THE NEXT STATE. ALL STATE TROOPERS WERE TO WATCH FOR HIM IN CARS CROSSING THE STATE LINE."

"MMM... CONTAINER OF MILK... SANDWICHES... CIGARETTES... ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME IN THAT SECRET COMPARTMENT."

"THAT PROVES THE DRIVER KNEW HE WAS CARRYING 'FEETS'."

"A NEW RACKET, EH? SMUGGLING HOT CROOKS ACROSS THE LINE INTO OTHER STATES!"

"IT'S OBVIOUS THE DRIVER WASN'T ALONE IN THIS SET-UP. I WONDER IF THE OWNER OF THE LAND-SEA-AIR TRANSPORT CO. IS TOP MAN?"



AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, COMMISSIONER GORDON SECURES QUICK INFORMATION...

THE REPORT SAYS THE NEW LSA OWNER BOUGHT OUT THE OLD OWNER, FIRED THE OLD TRUCKERS AND HIRED A NEW STAFF. THE OWNER'S NAME IS JOE CHILL. HERE'S A RADIO-PHOTO OF HIM...



THAT FACE... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... IT'S HE! THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO KILLED MY PARENTS.



AND BATMAN'S THOUGHTS WHIRL HIM BACK TO A VIVID NIGHT MANY YEARS BEFORE... TO A NIGHT WHEN HE WAS WALKING WITH HIS PARENTS, THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE...

THIS IS A STICKUP! I'LL TAKE THAT NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARIN', LADY!

OH... NOT MY NECKLACE...

THOMAS!

YOU HOODLUM! DON'T YOU DARE PUT A HAND ON MY WIFE! UHHH...

MAYBE YOU'LL KEEP QUIET... NOW!



THAT SINGLE BULLET REALLY KILLED TWO PEOPLE... FOR MARTHA WAYNE'S WEAK KNEE STOPPED FROM THE SUDDEN SHOCK.

THEY'RE DEAD. YOU KILLED THEM... YOU KILLED MY MOTHER AND FATHER...

STOP LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THAT!



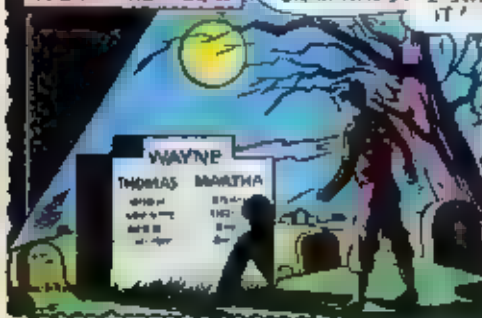
SOMETHING ABOUT YOUNG BRUCE'S EYES MADE THE KILLER RETREAT... THEY WERE ACCUSING EYES THAT MEMORIZED HIS EVERY FEATURE... EYES THAT WOULD NEVER FORGET...



THE KILLER WAS NEVER FOUND, AND SOON AFTER, A YOUNG LAD MADE A GRIM PROMISE...

I SWEAR I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE AND INHERITANCE TO BRINGING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND TO FIGHTING ALL CRIMINALS! I SWEAR IT!

THE YEARS PASSED AS BRUCE WAYNE PREPARED FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER!



HE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.

HE TRAINED HIS BODY TO SUCH PHYSICAL AND ATHLETIC PERFECTION THAT HE COULD PERFORM ANY DAREDEVIL FEAT.



THUS WAS BORN THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE SHADOWS... THIS AVENGER OF EVIL - **THE BATMAN!**

THEN, ONE DAY HE WAS READY FOR HIS NEW ROLE.

AND AS IF IN ANSWER, A WINGED CREATURE FLEW IN THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW!

CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS, COWARDLY LOT, SO I MUST WEAR A DISGUISE THAT WILL STRIKE TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS! I MUST BE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, LIKE A... A... A...

A BAT! THAT'S IT! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT!



SOME DAY, I'LL FIND THE KILLER OF MY PARENTS... SOME DAY...

AS BATMAN BRUCE WAYNE HAD SEARCHED ALL CRIMINAL HAUNTS, BUT THERE'D BEEN NO SIGN OF THE KILLER TILL NOW.

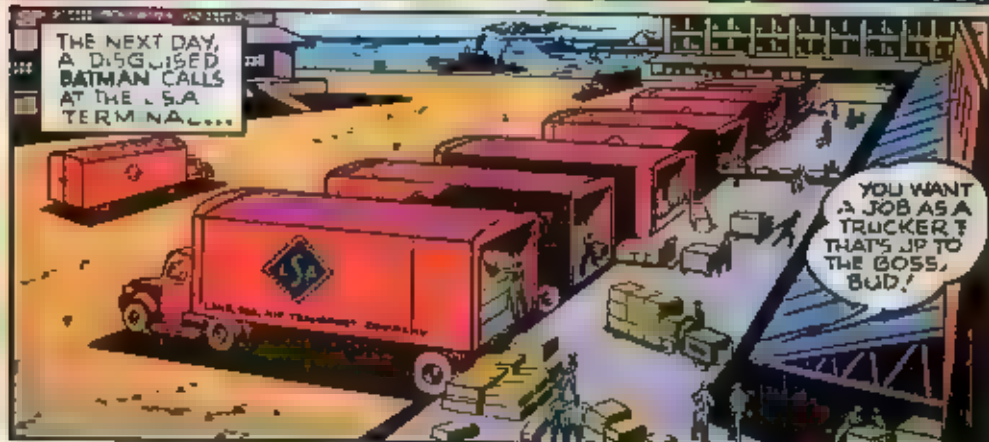
WITH YOUR PERMISS ON, I'D LIKE TO TAKE OVER THIS CASE!

ODD BATMAN LOOKED SO STRANGE WHEN HE SAID THAT. I WONDER WHY?

AT HOME AFTER BATMAN EXPLAINS TO HIS YOUNG PARTNER...

THE KILLER OF YOUR PARENTS EH? WELL... LET'S GO GET HIM.

SORRY, ROBIN. THIS IS ONE JOB I'M DOING ALONE! I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN—YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY!



THE NEXT DAY, A DISGUISED BATMAN CALLS AT THE L.S.A. TERMINAL...

YOU WANT A JOB AS A TRUCKER? THAT'S UP TO THE BOSS, BUD!

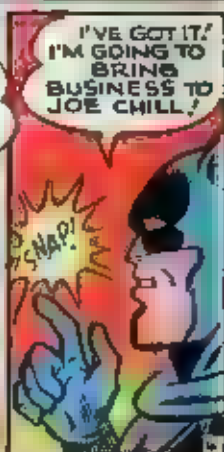
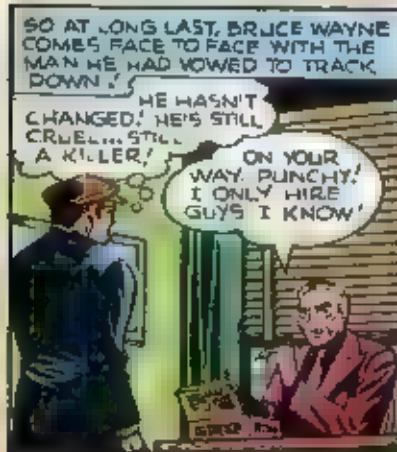
SO AT LONG LAST, BRUCE WAYNE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE MAN HE HAD VOWED TO TRACK DOWN.

HE HASN'T CHANGED! HE'S STILL CRUEL... STILL A KILLER!

ON YOUR WAY, PUNCH! I ONLY HIRE GUYS I KNOW!

AFTER... HE'S CAGEY. ONLY WANTS DRIVERS HE'S SURE HE CAN TRUST! THAT KILLS MY CHANCES OF GETTING INSIDE HIS GANG. WHAT NOW?

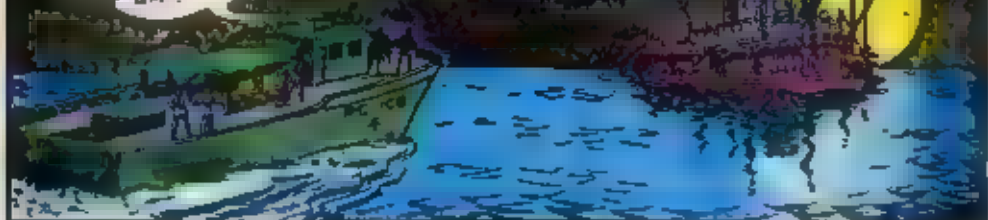
I'VE GOT IT! I'M GOING TO BRING BUSINESS TO JOE CHILL!



THAT NIGHT, BATMAN
RIDES WITH THE
POLICE HARBOR
PATROL...

SO THAT
SHOWBOAT
IS REALLY A
GAMBLING SHIP,
EH?

YES, RUN BY MONTY JULEP.
HE HAS ALL HIS CREW COSTUMED
LIKE OLDTIME MISSISSIPPI GAMBLERS.
HIS SHOWBOAT RADDLES
AROUND OUTSIDE THE
LEGAL LIMIT SO WE
CAN'T ARREST HIM.



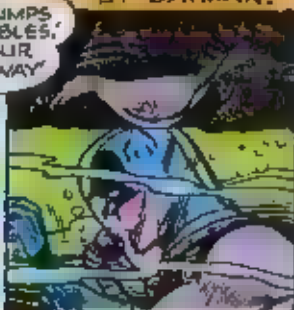
ONE HOUR LATER... ON THE GAM-
BLING SHIP, TWO SENTRIES DLE
AWAY THE TIME...

PETE: I THINK I'LL
TRY SOME TARGET
PRACTICE ON THAT
SEA GULL.

YOU SAY? THE
SHOTS WOULD
PANIC THE CHUMPS
AT JULEP'S TABLES.
PUT YOUR
GUN AWAY!



A GOOD THING, TOO...
FOR THE "SEA GULL" IS
IN REALITY A UNIQUE
CAMOUFLAGE UNDER
WATER HELMET WORN
BY BATMAN!



THEN THE CHURNING
STERNWHEEL CARRIES
THE ACROBATMAN
UNSEEN TO A TOP DECK!



TRICKY, BUT IT'S
A SHORT-CUT TO
THE WHEEL-
ROOM!

JUST A
LITTLE MUTINY,
CAPTAIN!

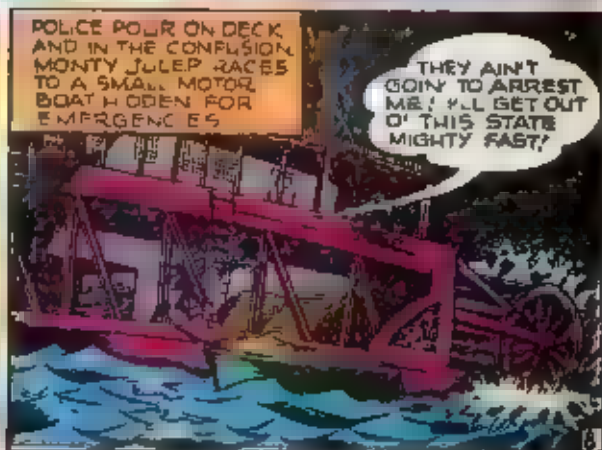
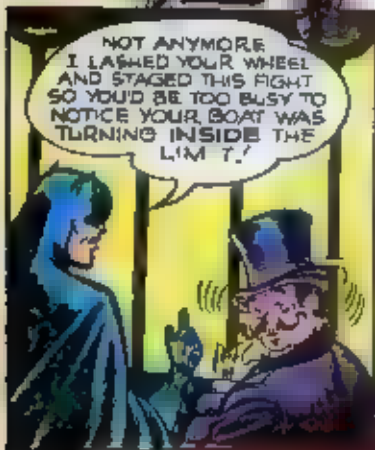
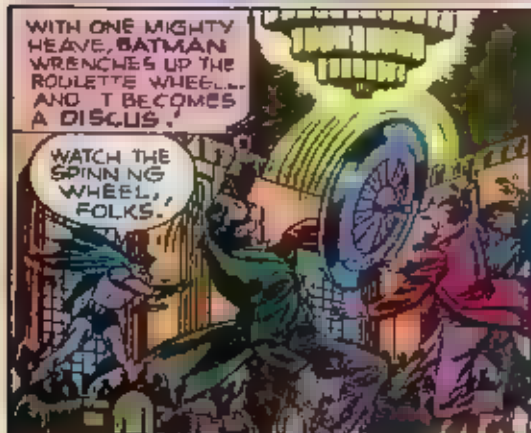


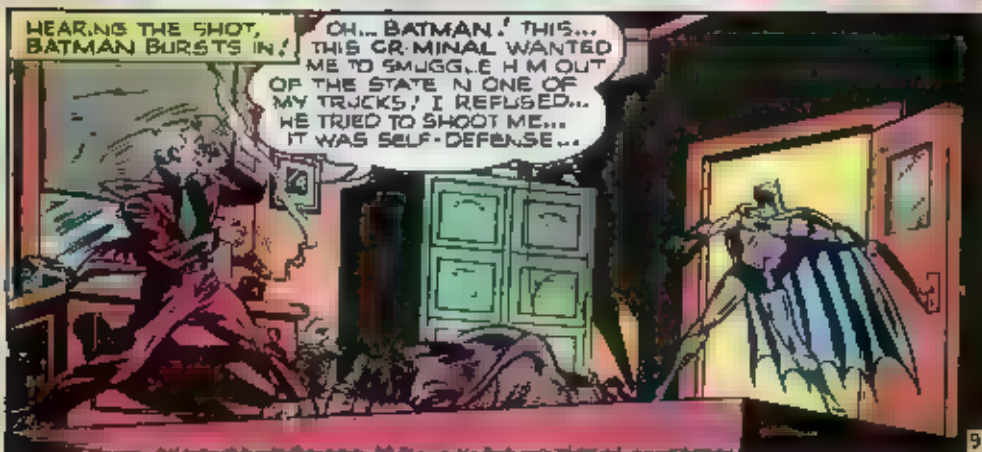
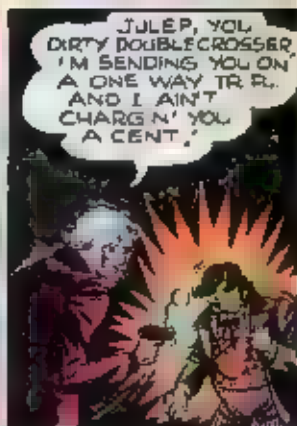
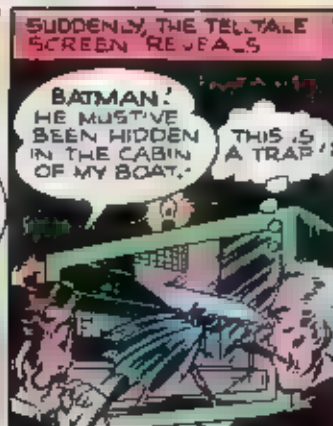
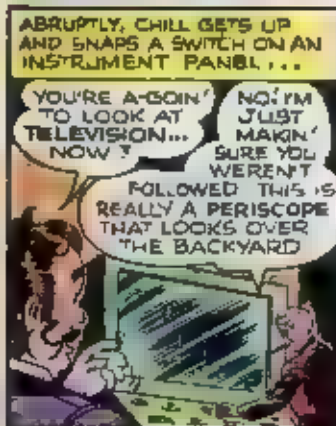
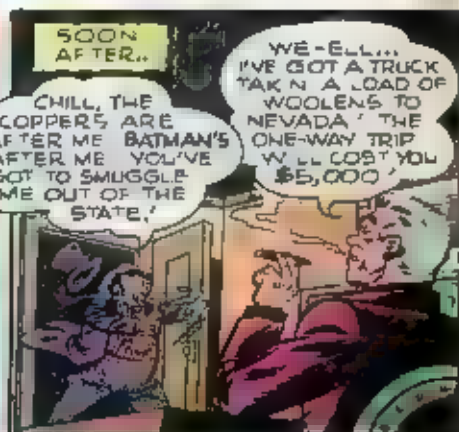
SOON AFTER... A CYCLONIC FIGURE CHARGES INTO
THE GAMBLING ROOM!

THROW IN YOUR CARDS,
FOLKS! MONTY JULEP'S
NOT DEALING ANOTHER
HAND TONIGHT!

DON'T BE
TOO SHORE,
BATMAN!
BOYS, COME
A-RUNNIN'!









THAT NIGHT, A BROODING BATMAN WEIGHS HIS CASE AGAINST HIS ENEMY...

HM-MM, I'M CLOSING IN ON JOE CHILL—BUT HOW CAN I MAKE HIM CONFESS THAT HE KILLED MY FATHER?



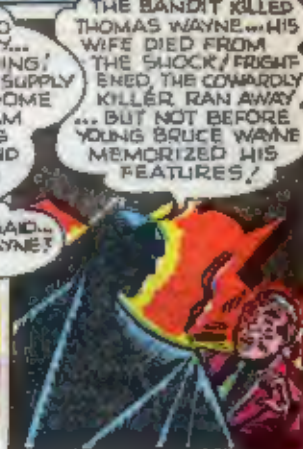
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY. IT'S A DESPERATE MOVE... BUT I MUST TAKE IT... EVEN IF IT MEANS THE END OF BATMAN'S CAREER.



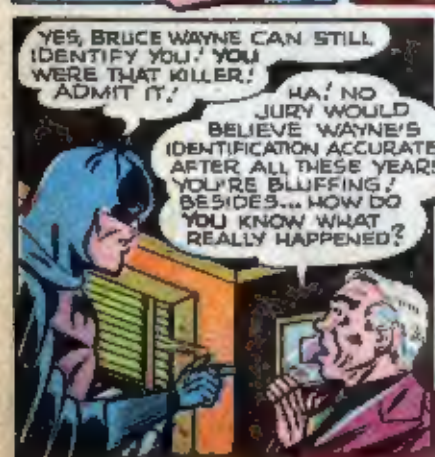
PRESENTLY, BATMAN CALLS ON JOE CHILL.

CHILL, I WANT TO TELL YOU A STORY... WITHOUT AN ENDING! MAYBE YOU CAN SUPPLY IT! IT BEGAN SOME YEARS AGO IN GOTHAM CITY... WHEN THOMAS WAYNE, HIS WIFE, AND YOUNG SON, BRUCE, WERE STOPPED BY A BANDIT...

YOU SAID... W-WAYNE?



THE BANDIT KILLED THOMAS WAYNE... HIS WIFE DIED FROM THE SHOCK/FRIGHTENED, THE COWARDLY KILLER RAN AWAY... BUT NOT BEFORE YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE MEMORIZED HIS FEATURES!



YES, BRUCE WAYNE CAN STILL IDENTIFY YOU! YOU WERE THAT KILLER! ADMIT IT!

HA! NO JURY WOULD BELIEVE WAYNE'S IDENTIFICATION ACCURATE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! YOU'RE BLUFFING! BESIDES... HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?



I KNOW BECAUSE I AM THE SON OF THE MAN YOU MURDERED! I AM BRUCE WAYNE!!

